

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

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R 271907Z AUG 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3392

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB/PINT/AR

SUBJ: CORRIENTE PROVINCIAL GOVT - LABOR CONFRONTATION

1. THE LONG SMOLDERING DISPUTE BETWEEN CORRIENTES PROVINCE GOVERNOR ROMERO AND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION OVER ROMERO'S PERSONNEL POLICIES ERUPTED OVER THE WEEKEND INTO OPEN CONFRONTATION. FOLLOWING ROMERO'S REPEATED REFUSAL TO CONSIDER REINSTATEMENT OF THE APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES HE DISCHARGED DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS, CORRIENTES PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION BEGAN A STRIKE ON AUG 27. ADDITIONALLY, HEALTH WORKERS SEIZED CONTROL OF SEVERAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AS PART OF THE SAME CAMPAIGN. GOVERNOR ROMERO, CITING EXECUTIVE PREROGATIVE, HAS REFUSED TO ACCEDE TO WORKERS' DEMANDS, AND HE HAS RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE PERONIST BLOC IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

2. IN SUPPORT OF THE STRIKERS, THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION DECREED ONE HOUR NATIONWIDE STRIKE FOR AUG 27, AND THE CORRIENTES CGT HAS DECLARED A STATE OF ALERT FOR ALL PROVINCIAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. ALSO CGT DELEGATES TRAVELLED TO BUENOS AIRES ON AUG 27 TO BEGIN TALKS WITH NATIONAL GOA AND CGT

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AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION.

3. THE SITUATION IS CREATING AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE PERONISTS AS IT HAS DEGENERATED INTO PERSONALITY CLASHES. ROMERO HAS ACCUSED NATIONAL CGT INTERIOR SECRETARY OTTO CALACE, WHO HAS BEEN IN CORRIENTES SUPPORTING PROVINCIAL CGT IN CONFLICT, OF BEING A "PARTICIPATIONIST, ANTI PERONIST WITH CLOSE TIES WITH PREVIOUS MILITARY DICTATORSHIP". ROMERO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH BEING ANTI NATIONALIST. THE CONFLICT HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR SPREADING BEYOND THE CONFINE OF THE PROVINCE UNLESS RESOLVED RAPIDLY.

LODGE

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